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UNITED NATIONS
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Regional Seminar on Women and
Decision Making in the Media

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
11-14 February 1985

-C/NAIROBI

PROVISIONAL ANNOTATED AGENDA

1. Opening

Opening statements will be made by representatives of the Government of Ethiopia, the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO).

2. Election of Officers

Participants from ECA member States will elect officers for the Seminar, to include a Chairperson, First and Second Vice-Chairpersons, and First and Second Rapporteurs.

3. Adoption of agenda and organization of work

A provisional agenda has been distributed for participants (E/ECA/ATRCW/UNESCO/1/Rev.1) which is augmented by the Provisional Programme of Work (E/ECA/ATRCW/UNESCO/INF.1/Rev.1)

4. Situation of women in the media in Africa

These topics have exercised people's minds in general, and African women in particular, because they relate to issues that are of vital important to the economic and social advancement of the African continent. With the rapid growth of modern technology it has become even more pressing that they be carefully analysed. Discussion will include analysis of the nature of the images of African women presented in the media (E/ECA/ATRCW/UNESCO/3, E/ECA/ATRCW/UNESCO/4), different channels of communication used mainly by women and society's demands. The importance of having women at decision making levels in the media in order to promote their social and economic advancement will be emphasized (E/ECA/ATRCW/UNESCO/5).

5. New communications technology and its significance for women

Communications technology and women's development has three major aspects that will be considered: hardware, software and the people involved in their use. Though women have little voice in the design of hardware at present, they will be able to help harness the media for the progress of all people with proper trianing in software technology.

6. Women and communications policy

Women are becoming more active in the mass media throughout the world today. A few are taking their places in government policy-making related to the media. But are they included in the high level international meetings and discussions that are taking place? Government communications policy, satellite communications, telecommunications, regional news agencies and other modern technical aspects of the media are still outside the grasp of women. Are they excluded or is it that they do not wish to be involved with these important issues.

After the completion of these 6 agenda items, observers will be given the floor to make statements.

7. Adoption of recommendations and report

Participants will spend the bulk of the third working day of the meeting preparing draft recommendations which will be submitted to the plenary on Thursday afternoon, along with the draft report of the Seminar, for adoption by the participants.

8. Closing